

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification

- Please add the section “Cross-Reference to Related Applications beginning at page 2, line 1 as follows:

-- Cross-Reference to Related Application

This application claims benefit to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/421,641, filed on October 29, 2002” --

- Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 9 as follows:

-- Turning now to FIGS. 5-8, an alternative embodiment of an optical format (optical format 32) ~~[[32]]~~ according to the present invention is shown. FIG5. is a top view of the optical format ~~[[10]]~~ 32, and FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view along the line “6-6” of FIG. 5. FIG. 7 is a front view of the optical format ~~[[10]]~~ 32 and FIG. 8 is an isometric view of the optical format ~~[[10]]~~ 32. The primary difference between the optical format ~~[[10]]~~ 32 of FIGS. 5-8 is the use of a shorter lid 34 and a light transmission segment 36 which extends beyond the dimensions of the input light guide 12 and output light guide 14. This design allows the conservation of materials in the light guide portions as compared to the light transmission segment 36, which may be provided with greater dimensions to accommodate a lancet (not shown), the lid 34, and a reagent (not shown) and further to allow room for sample to be input into the sample cavity 20. In addition, this design reduces the amount of light that is lost when the light passes through the non-sample portion of the transmission segment 36. The lid 34 may be printed with a reagent, or a reagent may be provided on the lid via alternative methods such as screen printing, microdeposition, pin deposition, or as a matrix label containing the reagent. --